

Region IX: *Strengthening Healthcare-Associated Infections Prevention Efforts in Small and Rural Hospitals*

Key Project Elements:

- Advance and support healthcare-associated infection (HAI) prevention efforts targeted to the rural, small, and critical access acute care hospitals
 - Expand the existing outreach infrastructure to provide onsite support to hospitals, healthcare providers, and local public health officers
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About the Project

Region IX will focus on the need for increased HAI prevention communication and education at small and rural acute healthcare facilities in California. California has 72 rural and 29 critical access hospitals representing a wide range of geographic and cultural diversity. Small and rural hospitals are less likely to be involved in prevention collaboratives or to be members of the California Hospital Association. This project will address the particular challenges of these small and rural hospitals, improving communication and outreach to local public health officials, providers working in a rural hospital setting, and consumers. A dedicated infection preventionist will coordinate with these facilities, developing and disseminating HAI prevention messages and best practices.

The team will:

- 1) Hire and support a part-time infection preventionist to work with the California Department of Public Health/Healthcare Associated Infection Liaison Program
- 2) Develop and test methods for collecting, aggregating and disseminating best practices for use by small and rural hospitals
- 3) Draft a communication plan and craft messages for those working in small and rural hospital settings, including providers, facility leadership, local public health partners and rural community consumers

For more information

Please contact the Office of Healthcare Quality, ohq@hhs.gov or (202) 401-8006.